



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF



August 3, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT ON THE IMPACTS STATES HAVE EXPERIENCED AFTER LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

On July 12, 2016, the Board requested the Sheriff to report back regarding the impacts of marijuana legalization in other parts of the country.

Colorado and Washington were the first states to legalize marijuana in 2012, and the County may learn from the effects they experienced. Two reports and two additional data sources were referenced, the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (143 page report), the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (182 page report), United States Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center and the International Business Times.

DATA FROM THE NORTHWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA REPORT:

Executive Director David Rodriguez said, "Data compiled in this report shows that the decision to legalize marijuana was not without harm. Unfortunately, many of the reported outcomes show the exact opposite of the goals that sold the initiative to voters. We now see clearly that marijuana is increasingly hurting our youth, black market sales have not disappeared, the amount of crime due to marijuana has actually gone up and Washington has become a net exporter of cannabis to other states."

In Washington, children ages 12 to 17 years old accounted for 74% of all state marijuana seizures in 2014, compared to 28.9% in 2010. Seattle Public Schools report 98% of student drug violations between 2013 and 2014 were related to marijuana. In

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2014, youth under the age of 20 made up 45% of Washington's Poison Center calls (an 80% increase since legalization).

In regards to highway safety, the number of drivers involved in fatal accidents that had active Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC-the mind altering ingredient in marijuana) in their blood increased over 120%, from 2010 to 2014. One-third of all driving under the influence suspects now test positive for active THC, up from 19% in 2012. A survey revealed that 49% of young adult respondents, ages 18 to 25, who used marijuana in the past month had driven a car within three hours of getting high and 16% of them had done so six or more times in that same month.

DATA FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA REPORT:

Colorado law allowed cities or counties to ban all forms of marijuana. Over half of Colorado municipalities banned marijuana sales since legalization. Colorado has 369 recreational over the counter sales locations and 497 medical marijuana dispensaries, as of September 2015.

In 2012, Colorado ranked fourth in the nation regarding teens from 12 to 17 years old who used marijuana. In 2014, they were number one. Use in Colorado and Washington is higher, and is rising faster than the national average. Colorado currently leads the nation in marijuana use for all age categories.

Colorado youth marijuana use in 2013 and 2014 was 74% higher than the national average. In the 18 to 25 year old age group, usage increased from 21% in 2006 to 31% in 2014.

In the 2014 and 2015 school years, school-based discipline for drugs accounted for 41% of all expulsions. When surveyed, 29% of Denver high school students said they used marijuana in the previous month. Additionally, there has been a sharp rise in emergency room visits and hospitalization due to marijuana use.

There was a 32% increase in marijuana-related traffic deaths from 2013 to 2014. Marijuana-related traffic deaths comprised 20% of all traffic deaths in 2014, compared to 10% just five years earlier, and driving under the influence of THC increased 45% in just one year.

Student research at Metropolitan State University of Denver - Schools of Criminal Justice and Criminology and Psychology Programs research shows that total crime increased over 30% from 2012 to 2014. University of Denver research also showed an increase in other drug-related crimes. From 2013 to 2014, possession of heroin rose by

27%, possession of methamphetamine rose by 9%, possession of cocaine rose by 12%, and possession of marijuana rose by 67%.

In 2014, Colorado collected only .07% of their state budget in tax revenues from medical and recreational marijuana. According to the Colorado data contained in the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, published in September 2015, they have spent well in excess of that amount trying to build the infrastructure to manage their marijuana industry.

Since legalization, chronic marijuana users who are struggling with poverty are arriving in Colorado each month. According to the homeless shelters in Denver and other major Colorado cities who allow over the counter sales of marijuana, there has been a 20% to 30% increase in the state's homeless populations.

VARIOUS ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

In the United States Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center report, titled "The Economic Impact of Illicit Drug Use on American Society" (April 2011), it states substance abuse costs the United States \$193 billion per year. This does not include costs associated with domestic violence or child abuse. One in ten people over 12 years of age are addicted to marijuana and it is the second reason for addiction treatment, behind alcohol. With marijuana containing three to five times the carcinogenic impact as cigarettes, the impact of second hand smoke is still unknown, due to the lack of studies.

According a news article written in the International Business Times on June 20, 2016, titled "Marijuana Legalization In Colorado: How Recreational Weed Is Attracting People, But Spiking The State's Homeless Rate", Author Joel Warner writes, "While overall U.S. homelessness decreased between 2013 and 2014 as the country moved out of the recession, Colorado was one of 17 states that saw homeless numbers increase during that time. And in Denver, whose metro area accounted for roughly 60% of the 10,000 plus Colorado homeless individuals in 2015, shelter usage grew from roughly 28,000 accommodations per month in July 2012, to 42,000 accommodations in November 2015."

CONCLUSION

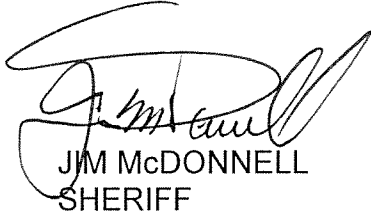
The statistical information contained in the referenced material is very alarming, and may be of great assistance in future decisions regarding the legalization of marijuana in the County of Los Angeles. The first states to legalize marijuana are facing many challenges, providing us with insight and concern for the safety of our public and the quality of life we are charged with preserving. To that end, I am strongly opposed to the

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legalization of marijuana and the potential impact to our youth and communities within our County.

Sincerely,



JIM McDONNELL
SHERIFF